

CLAIMS

1. A method of enabling an application, running on an operating system with a first directory hierarchy, to access files stored on a removable storage medium, in which the
5 following steps occur:
 - (a) the application sends a file request with a path that conforms to the first directory hierarchy; and
 - (b) the file system starts a search for the file from a location within the
10 second directory hierarchy that is different from the start location defined by the file request.
2. The method of Claim 1 in which a prefix is attached to the original file request, and the file system interprets this prefix so as to change where the search begins on the
15 second directory hierarchy.
3. The method of Claim 1 in which the file system filters out parts of the second directory hierarchy during the search so as to present a view of the second directory hierarchy that conforms to the layout of the first directory hierarchy, or to hide parts of the second hierarchy to which access should be denied.
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4. The method of Claim 1 in which the storage medium is a storage medium that is removable from the device and conforms to the Memory Stick standard.
5. The method of Claim 1 in which the step of identifying the location of the start
25 of the search occurs automatically without the application having to be aware of this step or of the existence of the second directory hierarchy.
6. The method of Claim 1 in which the location of the start of the search is not the root of the second directory hierarchy.
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7. The method of Claim 1 in which the step of identifying the location of the start of the search is performed by recognizing and skipping a predefined prefix of a file request path to ensure conformance to the second directory hierarchy.

8. The method of Claim 7 in which recognizing and skipping the predefined prefix is only done once per path on the first occurrence of the predefined prefix.

9. The method of Claim 1 in which the step of identifying the location of the start of the search is performed by mapping a non-existing directory that conforms to the directory hierarchy used by the operating system to a directory that conforms to the second directory hierarchy.

10. The method of Claim 9 in which the mapping allows file interchange to occur.

11. The method of Claim 10 in which the directory that conforms to the second directory hierarchy is a root directory.

12. A portable computing device programmed to enable an application running on it to access files stored on a storage medium, in which the application sends a file request with a path that conforms to a directory hierarchy used by the device operating system, the device being further programmed to search for the path in the file request starting from a location within a second directory hierarchy used by the storage medium, the second directory hierarchy being incompatible with the first.